Message Text

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42.

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 USSS-00 FBIE-00

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FM AMMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 137

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE 3592

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, EG

SUBJECT: PLO DELEGATION TO UNGA DEBATE

REF STATE 247827

1. WHEN WITH FAHMY THIS MORNING, I TOLD HIM THAT US SECURITY AGENCIES CONSIDER PROPOSED ARAFAT PARTY (CAIRO 8995 AND RIBHI AWWAD) IS ENTIRELY TOO LARGE. THEY ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE THREE AIDES SUGGESTD BY ARAFAT (BEHLOULI, AWWAD AND FAROUK ABDEL RAHMAN) AND A MAXIMUM OF FOUR SECURITY PERSONS WHO ARE ASSUMED TO BE BODYGUARDS. MOREOVER, PLO SHOULD UNDERSTAND

THAT ONLY PERSONS ON LIST

IDENTIFIED AS SECURITY PERSONNEL WILL BE PERMITTED TO FUNCTION IN THIS CAPACITY IN NEW YORK. BEHLOULI, SINCE HE IS IDENTIFIED AS A PERSONAL ADVISOR, WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO HAVE A SECURITY ROLE, I ALSO TOLD FAHMY THAT DESPITE ASSURANCES PLO REPRESENTATIVES HAD GIVEN TO GOE AND LATTER HAD PASSED ON TO US, NONE OF THE NAMES ON ARAFAT'S LIST, INCLUDING ARAFAT HIMSELF, HAS AS

YET BEEN NOTIFIED BY PLO REPRESENTATIVE TO UNSYG. NO AUTHORIZATION FOR ISSUANCE OF VISAS CAN BE GIVEN CONFIDENTIAL

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UNTIL USUN IS NOTIFIED BY UNSYG OF PLO MEMBERS WHO WILL COME

WITH ARAFAT. USG HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO XPDITE VISAS, BUT PLO MUST COMPLY WITH NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE. I ASKED THAT GOE REMIND PLO IN WHATEVER WAY FEASIBLE THAT IT IS IN PLO'S OWN INFREST TO COOPERATE.

2. SIRRI, WHO ALONG WITH ISAMA AL-BAZ WAS ALSO PRESENT, COMMENTED THAT IN HIS MEETING WITH PLO REPRESENTATIVES LA5 NIGHT, THEY HAD EXPRESSED GREAT IMPATIENCE AT USG REFUSAL TO ISSUE VISAS. SIRRI OBSERVED THAT PLO HAS NO UNDERSTANDING OF INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC PROCEDURES AND THAT HE HAD TRIED TO IMPRESS UPON THEM THE NEED TO FOLLOW THE PROCEDURAL ADVICE GIVEN THEM BY GOE. FAHMY CONCURRED, BUT PROFESSED NOT TO BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND SHY ARAFAT'S BODYGUARDS (WHATEVER THEIR

NUMBER) SHOULD NOT BE ARMED. IREMINDED HIM THAT USG WILL ASSUME FULL PROTECTION FOR ARAFAT. FAHMY SAID HE UNDERSTANDS THIS, BUT OPINED THAT IF SOME OF ARAFAT'S BODYGUARDS ARE PERMITTED TO GO IN THAT CAPACITY, HE OUGHT TO ALLOW THEM TO BE ARMED. I SAID THAT I HOPED GOE HAD MADE CLEAR TO PLO REPRESENTATIVES THAT ARAFAT'S BODYGUARDS MAY NOT RPT NOT BE ARMED ON US SOIL. FAHMY AND SIRRI BOTH SAID THIS HAS REPEATEDLY BEEN DONE.

3. SUBJECT TO PLO NOTIFICATION OF NAMES TO UNSYG, FAHMY ASKED THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO EXPEDITE AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE VISAS TO THREE SPECIAL ADVISORS (BEHLOULI, AWWADAND FAROUK ABDEL RAHMAN) AND FOUR SECURITY GUARDS WHICH USG HAS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE. I AGRED PASS ON EGYPTIAN REQUEST,

BUT EMPHASIZED IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT PLO NOTIFY UNSYG, NOTING FROM AN EGYPT UNDEL REPORT THAT AMBASSADOR SCHAUFELE IS FULLY AWARE OF ALL OF THE NAMES, FAHMY ASKED WHY USUN COULD NOT NOTIFY UNSYG. I TOLD HIM THAT USUN HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN ALL OF OUR PERTINENT COMMUNICATIONS, BUT AS WE PREVIOUSLY STRESSED, IDENTIFICATION TO UNSYG MUST COME FROM PLO REPRESENTATIVE. FAHMY DID NOT PUSH THE POINT

4. FAHMY ALSO ASKED THAT IN ADDITION TO THE SEVEN VISAS THAT WE ARE IN PRINCIPLE WILLING TO ISSUE, IT WILL BE HELFPUL TO GO CONFIDENTIAL

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IFFUSG WILL AGREE TO SEVERAL MORE OF THE PERSONS ON THE PLO LIST BEING GIVEN A VISA. IT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO COUNTER PLO CHARGES THAT USG BEING UNHELPFUL. I AGREED RELAY FAHMY'SREQUEST, BUT WITHOUT COMMITMENT. I POINTED OUT PLO DELEGATION IS ALREADY SIZEABLE AND THAT THE GREATER THE NUMBER, THE GREATER THE EXPOSURE TO SECURITY PROBLEMS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: (AL ASSUMING PLO NOTIFIES UNSYG,

| THAT EXPEDITIOUS AUTHORIZATION BE GIVEN TO ISSUE VISAS |
|---|
| TO PERSONS MENTIONED IN PARA 3 ABOVE, AND (B) CONSIDERATION |
| BE GIVEN TO EGYPTIAN REQUEST TO GRANT A FEW MORE |
| VISAS TO PERSONS ON PLO LIST. |
| EILTS |

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Subject: PLO DELEGATION TO UNGA DEBATE

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, ASEC, EG, US, PLO

To: STATE

Type: TE

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